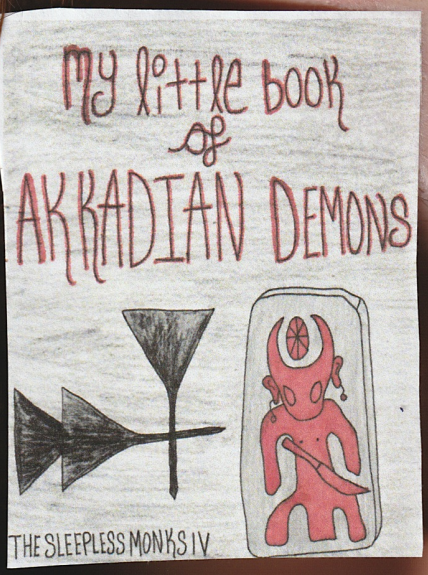
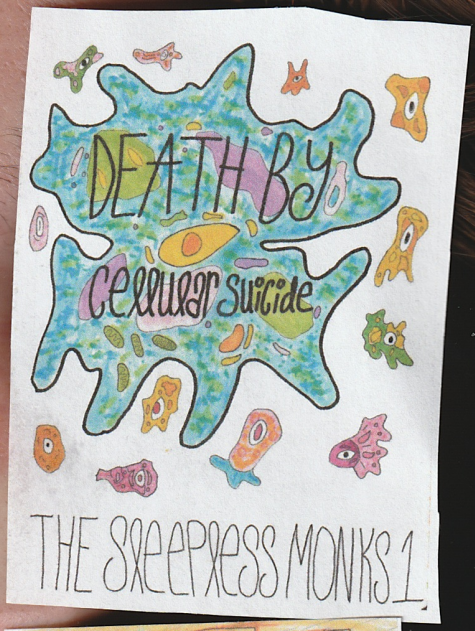
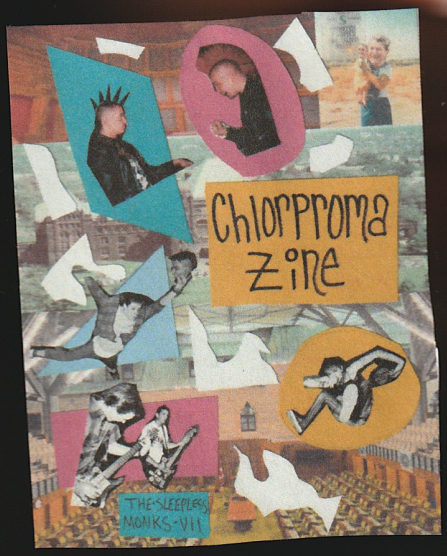
THE SLEEPLESS MONKS VIII

SUGGESTED READING







Contact the author to receive a FREE physical or digital copy of the above titles.

The nine Pierides were turned into magpies after challenging the muses to a singing contest, which they lost.

If the musician Amphion can use his lyre to move the Earth, raising the walls of Thebes with the help of Mercury and the muses, is it absurd to hope that, with their blessing, this zine may move your heart?

The nymphs who judged the muses' song to be superior do not speak for me

"For now, you sacred muses, I am yours." Allow this entry, my offering to the gods, to be exalted to heaven with my readers' hearts. Or, if the lineage of Jupiter and Mnemosyne may deny me, I will glady join the daughters of King Pierus: Vagabond magpies, enemies of the mother of Orpheus, detached from the world and the happenings on it, who wander and sing to anyone who will listen, proving art can exist beyond divinity and the muses.

Magpies reject the art of the muses

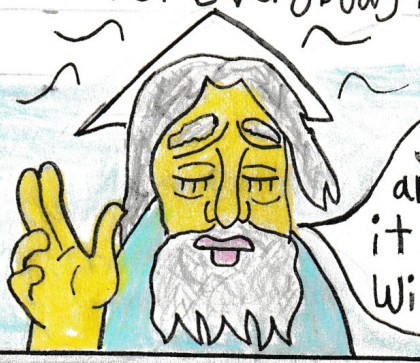
The Pierides would love benzedrine on the road

So come down with me from mount Helicon, dear reader, where we can break free from the muses' domain.

Breaking!

you're wrong about everything

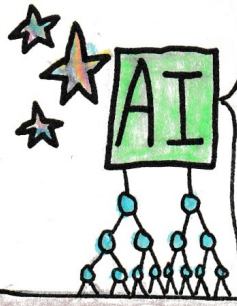
I'm so sick of everybody being told they're right all the time.



You hear it from God

All who disagree with you are Stupid & immoral.

You hear it from the algorithm



You're not just right— you're an empath. Cut them all off - you deserve better!

You hear it from LLMs

UGH! You're so right! They're SUCH an asshole!

You even hear it from your own friends and family

Well, guess what?

YOU'RE WRONG!

You have NEVER BEEN RIGHT! Your deepest beliefs are all based on faulty principles that do not hold up to scrutiny.

You really don't get it. You really have No IDEA what the fuck is going on.

Your Politics are wrong

your views on Religion are wrong

When you fell out with that former friend, it was you who was in the wrong

You don't understand anything about the world. You don't even understand yourself.

Imagine a Mirage in the desert at noon. Any rational person would see it as completely empty, hollow, and lacking real substance. In the same way, all your beliefs are empty, hollow, and lacking real substance.

You're wrong about everything.

OVR·CIVILISATION·IS·ICARVS; WE ARE·NOT·MORE·POWERFVL·THAN·THE·GODS

A Burning bull, Father Jove approves.

Burning Coal & Natural gas. Father Jove disapproves.

DO People not understand or care that our indulgent emission of fossil fuels Piss off the gods??

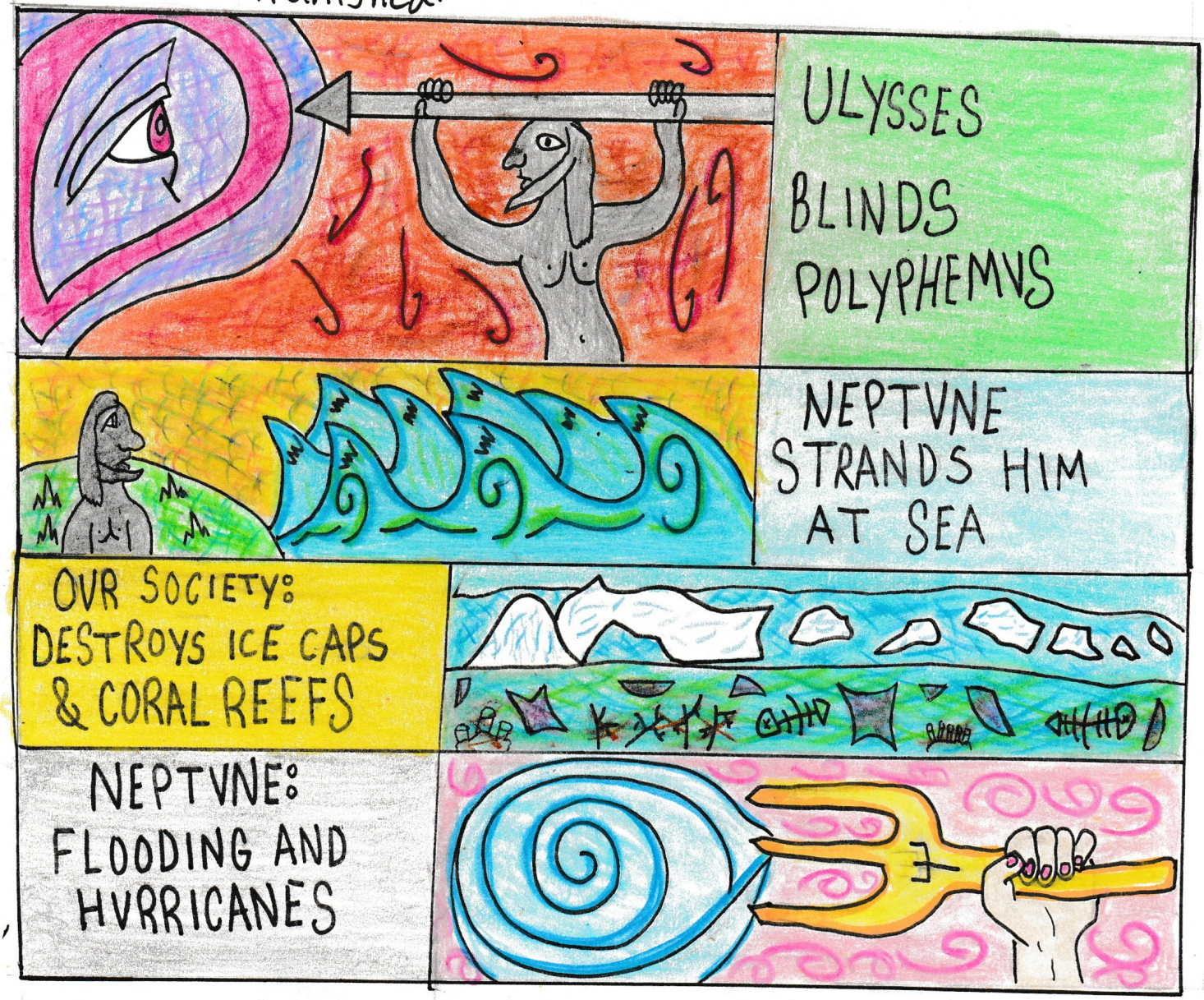
Consider Jupiter's outrage when King Lycaon Was soproud and disrespectful as to sacrifice a Prisoner to the Sky God to See if he'd notice the difference between human and animal flesh. For this offence, according to Ovid, Jove destroyed the King's house and turned him into a Wolf. Other accounts have Jove Killing Lycaon and his whole family with a lightning storm. Should we expect Jupiter to respond with anything other than Storms and natural disasters when we send burnt Coal up into the Sky?

Good offerings mean good weather

Bad offerings mean human Suffering

There's also the fact that the majority of the heat we release from fossil fuels is absorbed into the ocean, which disrupts aquatic ecosystems, melts Polar ice sheets, etc., etc. Recall how Neptune reacted when Ulysses blinded his son, the cyclops Polyphemus. Neptune turned the life of Ulysses and his family into a living hell for that offence, Stranding the warrior and thus allowing those vicious suitors to run amuck in his home.

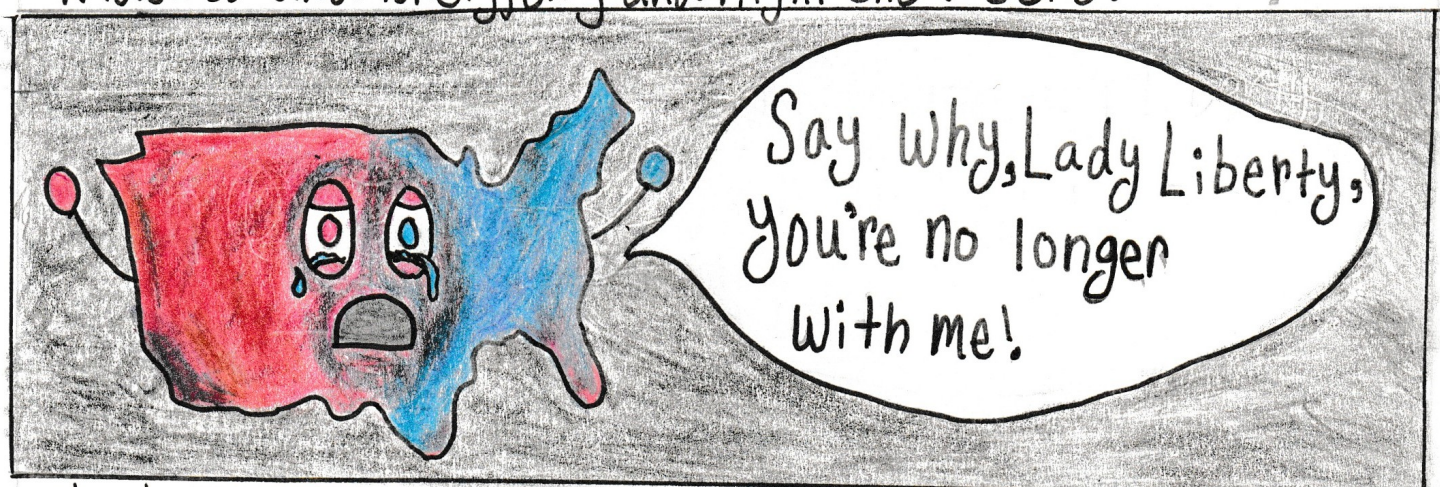
Today, each and every one of us, our entire civilisation, is complicit in a much larger offence against Neptune than Ulysses ever commit. The Sea God will not allow this to go unpunished.


ULYSSES BLINDS POLYPHEMVS
NEPTVNE STRANDS HIM AT SEA
OVR SOCIETY: DESTROYS ICE CAPS & CORAL REEFS
NEPTVNE: FLOODING AND HVRRICANES

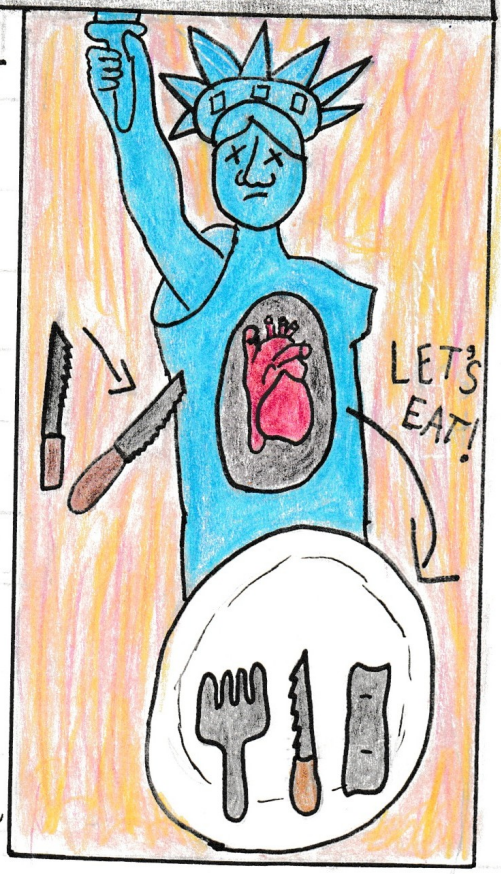
LAMENT FOR LADYLIBERTY (SORDELLO)

The following is a Parody/adaptation of Sordello's "Lament for Blacatz," written in the Occitan language in 1237. I have updatedit according to Contemporary Circumstance.

Come now, and see that Rome of yours in tears!
Widowed and lonely, day and night she weeps:[1]



Let everyone split up her heart-
yes, let those barons eat! For
they're all heartless men who
could stand a cordial treat!



Ah, number one comes the Holy
American Emperor, a man who needs
some hearty food if he wants to
overtake those Danish by force,
for they think he's a loss.

Turn Page

He's got no inheritance to leave, no Successor to speak, even with his MAGA base all sucking his feet.

And after him let the baron of Meta step up to the banquet. He wants to win back the audience he's losing to Google and ByteDance. But let him think of his cofounder and former best friend, whose heart he also ate. A second helping for someone who loves to gorge himself and others through his feed!

And that Holy VP! I think he should also eat for two. Since he has two mouths, and is not good enough for **One**! But if he wants a nibble, he should eat secretly. If his Dadda catches him, he'll flail him with his rod.

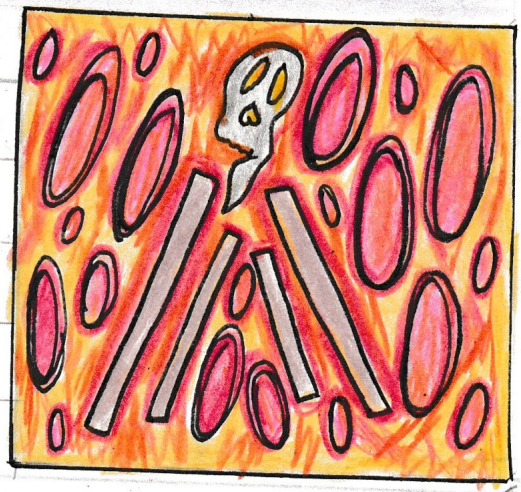
And the Muskrat King should have a taste, I do believe. It will help Purge him of the shame, since he gets not a jot of honour for anything said or done. The barons will curse me for the evil I said here, but they know I think they're as low as they think me.

FOOTNOTES- 1: This line & the next, taken from Dante's Purgatorio. "Caesar" is replaced w/ Liberty, for an e.g. of how I did this. Yes, America is a lesbian in this, Canto 6.

THE YOVTH COVNTER CVLTVRE OF YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW: THE SAMANA MOVEMENT

Do you feel alienated from work and society?
Are you Spiritual but resent religious establishments?
Are you disillusioned with Political culture and institutions?
I HAVE THE SOLVTION

(RE)INTRODVCING HOMELESSNESS!



Leave your old life, home, and possessions behind. Don't mourn for your family! They may consider you dead and light a funeral pyre in your honour.

Philosophise and rail against the Political and Religious establishment from ditches and the sides of the street. The street is the ultimate marketplace of ideas. Find your teacher! Or, if you have pierced through reality yourself, find your students! Compete with other teachers to make the biggest scene.

ANCIENT TIPS AND ADVICE

I. You can stich discarded rags together to make a robe for protection from the elements. Find these in garbage piles or in charnel grounds on corpses. Dye it with roots or flowers if you want that classic Saffron hue. It is best to dye and stitch your robe in an uneven manner to reject status and make it worthless to thieves.

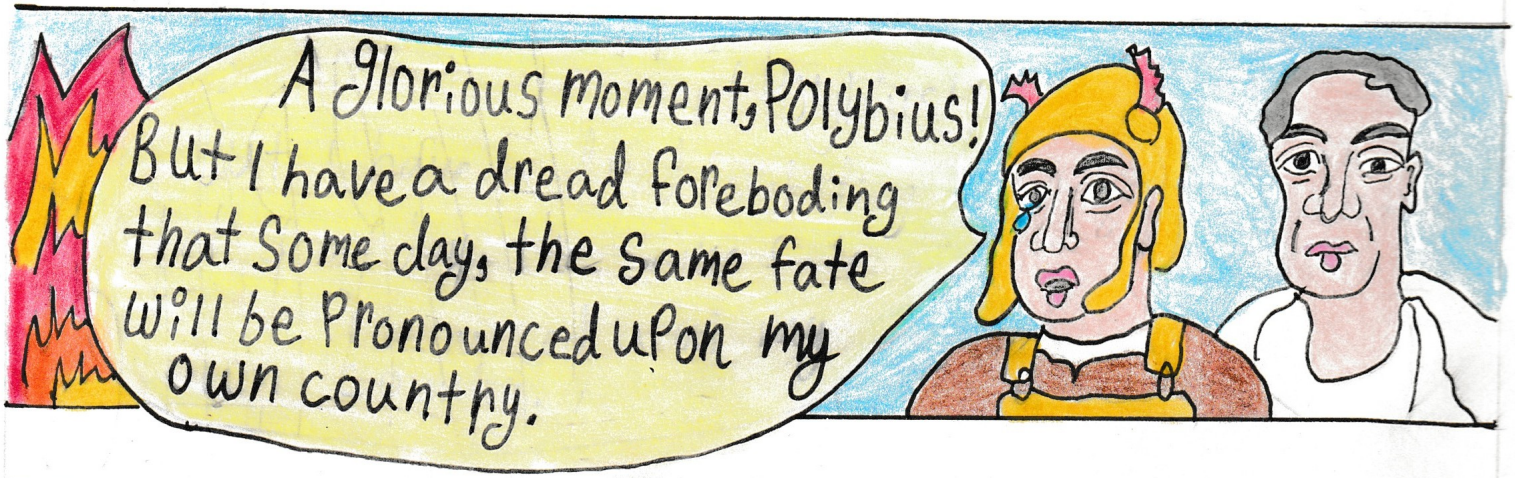
II. Rely on trees, caves, and abandoned structures for shelter. This is where enlightenment happens.

III. Don't touch money. The rejection of the implementation of money is what led the first of our movement into homelessness. Only accept food offerings, but don't ask for them directly. Instead, stand silently with your bowl until someone gets the idea.

IV. Some people are tempted to retreat into the forests or mountains entirely. This is beneficial in moderation. Always return to the streets! This is where your movement was born! The people in the cities must hear the lion's roar.

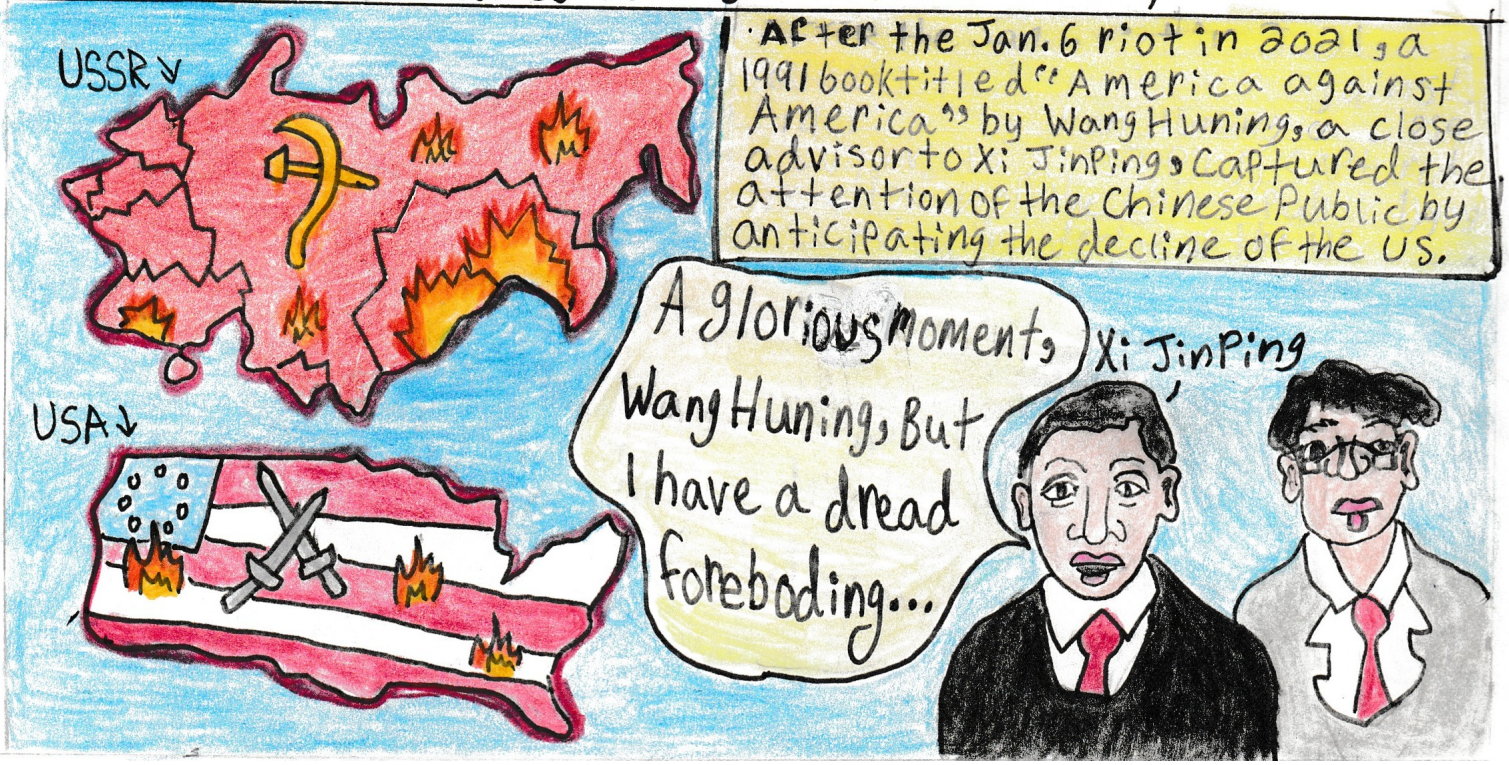
A·DREAD·FOREBODING

While watching flames engulf defeated Carthage in the aftermath of the Third Punic War, the victorious general Scipio Aemilianus wept. He remarked to his advisors:


A glorious moment, Polybius! But I have a dread foreboding that some day, the same fate will be pronounced upon my own country.

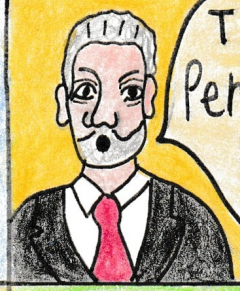
Scipio then invoked Homer's Iliad: "A day will come when Sacred Troy shall perish, And Priam and his People Shall be slain."

(From "The Histories" by Polybius, book XXXVIII)


USSR
USA
After the Jan. 6 riot in 2021, a 1991 book titled "America against America" by Wang Huning, a close advisor to Xi Jinping, captured the attention of the Chinese Public by anticipating the decline of the US.
A glorious moment, Wang Huning, But I have a dread foreboding...
Xi Jinping

HOT TAKE: THE 2020s ARE NOT THAT BAD!

It must be in human nature to think "things used to be better!"

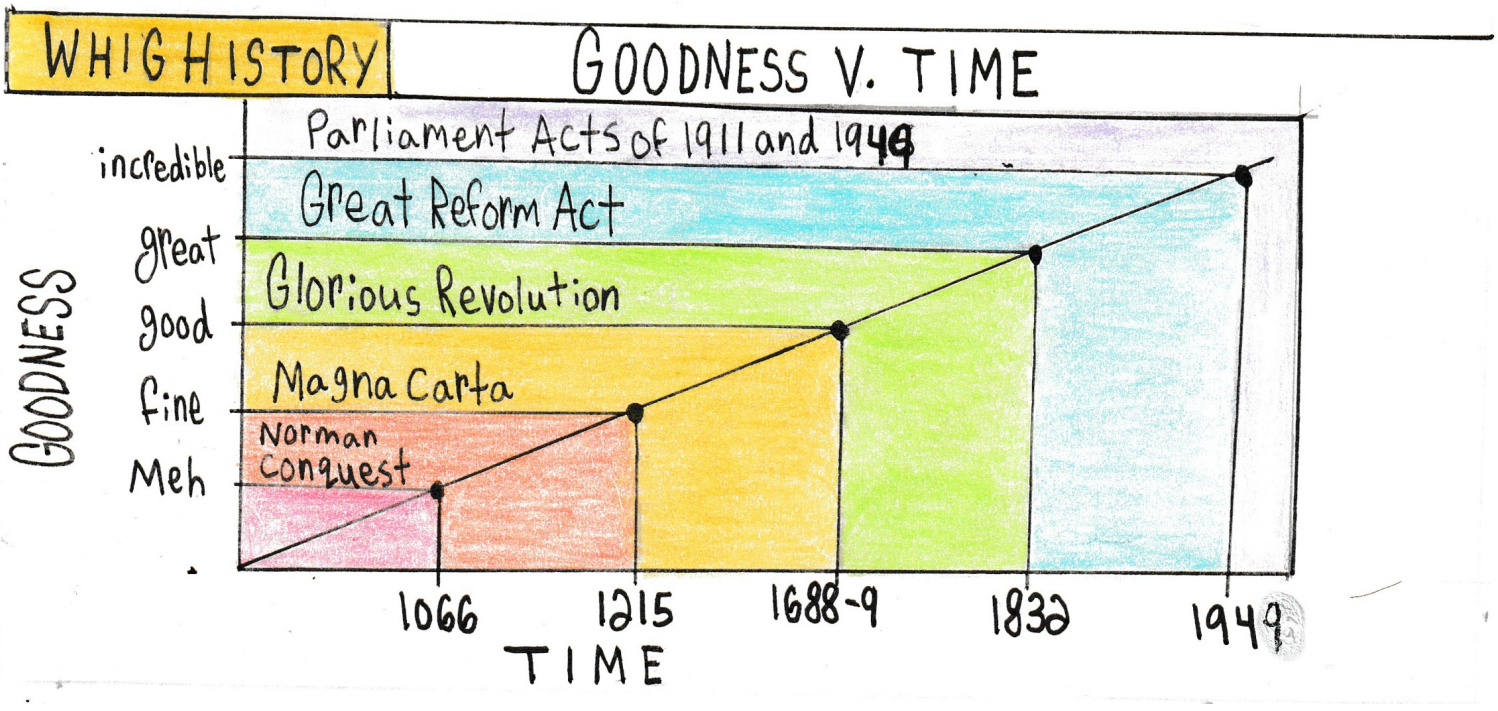
Conservatives today:	 Things used to be better in the Modern Peroid. High art flourished, Religion was respected, and cultural values were strong.
In the Renaissance and Modern Period:	Things used to be better in Classical Antiquity. Art and architecture were superior. Literature and Philosophy were more refined.
In Classical Antiquity	Things used to be better in the Age of Heroes. The gods interacted more personally with humans, and demigods like Jason and Hercules walked the Earth.
In the Age of Heroes	Things used to be better in the Golden Age, before Pandora opened that jar of demons. Humans lived in Peace, Prosperity, and abundance.

When people view the 2020s as uniquely bad, they are falling into this same ancient trap! It's easy to see what you're lacking, and hard to see what you have.

This sentiment has historically been used to fuel reactionary authoritarian movements that promise to regain a mythical past.

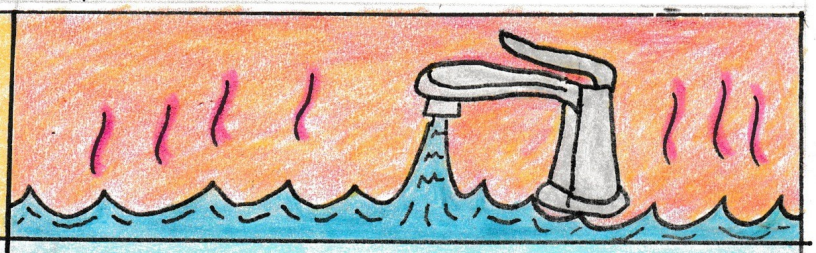
WE WILL RESTORE GERMANY'S PRIDE!
WE WILL END HER HUMILIATION!
THE INVASION OF UKRAINE WILL RESTORE RUSSIA'S GREATNESS AND INFLUENCE!
AN UNCHALLENGABLE EXECUTIVE AND A MONOLITHIC CULTURE WILL RESTORE AMERICA'S GREATNESS!

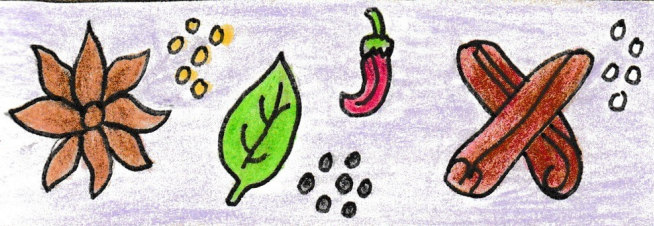
But there is also the opposite extreme, which views history as a positive linear progression. This view is equally dangerous, since it can be used to justify war and colonialism, and distorts history.



A via media between these two extremes will allow us to recognise that, while the Present isn't better than the Past in every area, things are not that bad in the 2020s. Our Standard of living is unprecedentedly high.

In the 2020s, you have drinkable hot running water inside your home.



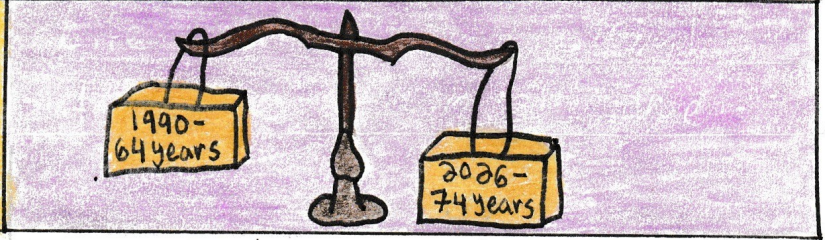


There is an abundance of spices and other delicacies, even for poor people.

We have advanced medicine, sanitation, and sewage systems.

Infant mortality, famines, and extreme poverty are at an all time global low.

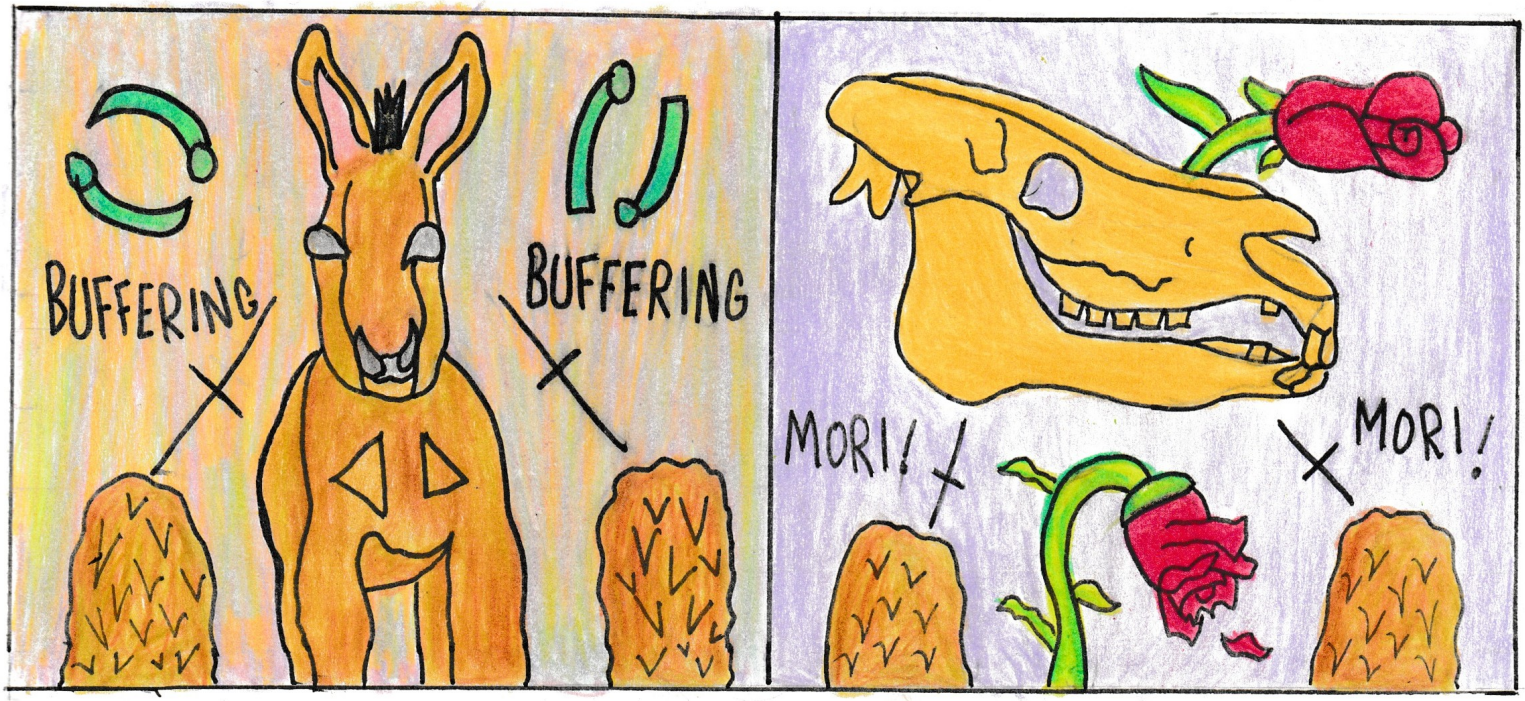
Life expectancy and global literacy are at an all time high



If you still think the 2020s suck, you should know that every other decade does too. Existence is just like that. Besides, even if everything isn't great, "one day we'll get nostalgic for disaster." Appreciate the 2020s! You might miss them one day.

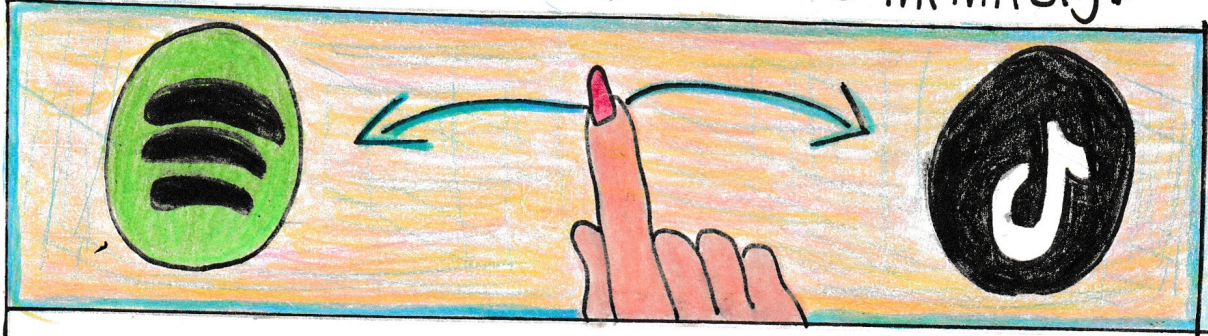
BVRIDAN'S TANTALVS

The 14th Century French Philosopher Jean Buridan believed human will to be entirely dependent on the movement of the intellect. Buridan believed that the intellect would evaluate Possible decisions to judge which was best. The will would then execute whatever function the intellect deemed Preferable. This idea was endlessly mocked by Buridan's intellectual rivals, such as the Franciscans, who argued that it Contradicted free Will. These critics Proposed a thought experiment to Satirise Burdians theory which, by the time of SPinoza and Bayle in the late 17th century, became widely Known as the Problem of "Buridan's ass."



Suppose an ass were placed between two equidistant and equally appealing portions of hay. Unable to decide which is preferable, the ass would starve to death before either portion touched his mouth.

In Paradiso, Dante similarly states, "So, too, some lamb might stand between the bite of hungry wolves, fearing them both alike. So, too, a hound would stand between two does." Likewise, you, dear reader, surrounded by infinite content, all an equal space away, (the distance of the swipe of a finger,) will starve to death before you satisfy your craving. So too, you will endlessly thirst for sound and hunger for sight when assuming the means to consume infinitely.



SPATIVM
REPLENS
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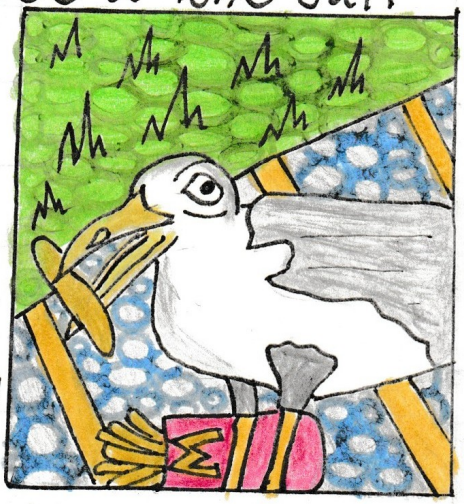
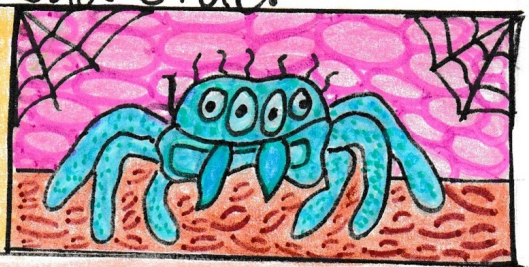
GULLS & GALMS

In the Odyssey, Minerva, disguised as a mortal, turns into a gull and flies off after conversing with Telemachus. Who is to say where she went or what she did next?

Suppose you see a lone gull in a parking lot, begging for fries. Knowing that gulls are often ingrateful, swarming and demanding more after receiving any offering, you refuse to give into its demands. What you didn't know is that this gull is none other than the goddess Minerva, and now you're on her bad side.



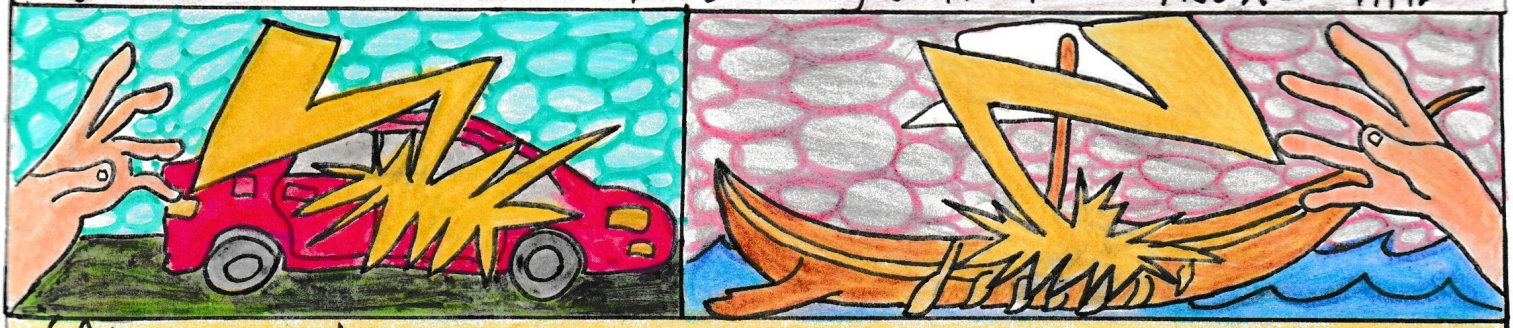
Will she turn you into an arachnid, as she did Arachne?



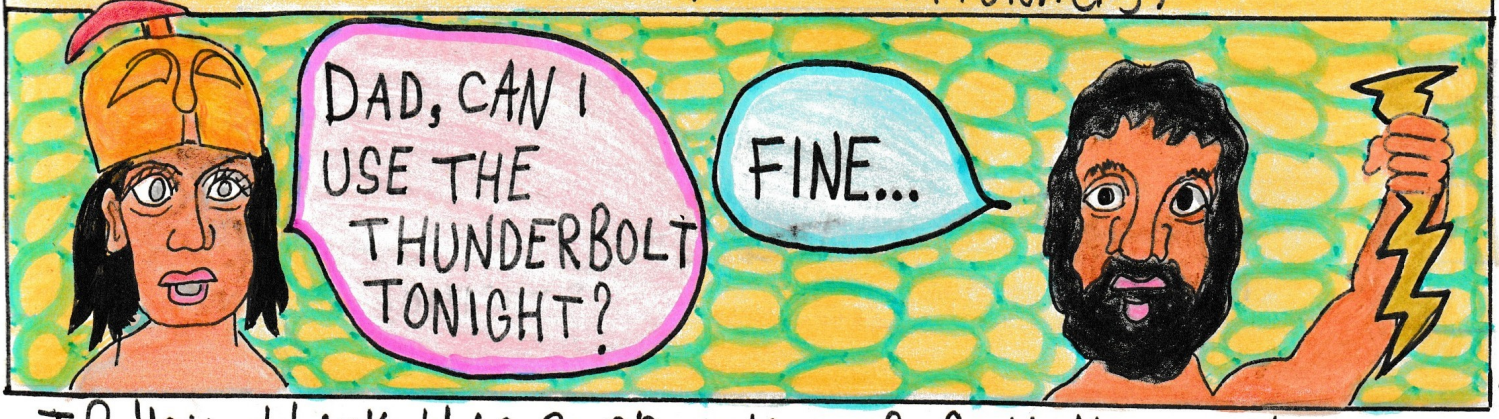
Or will she order your decapitation and use your severed head as a trophy, as she did Medusa?

Maybe she will stain your body with soot, as she did the once white crow who bore bad news.

Or maybe She will destroy your car on your drive home, just as she destroyed the lesser Ajax's ship.



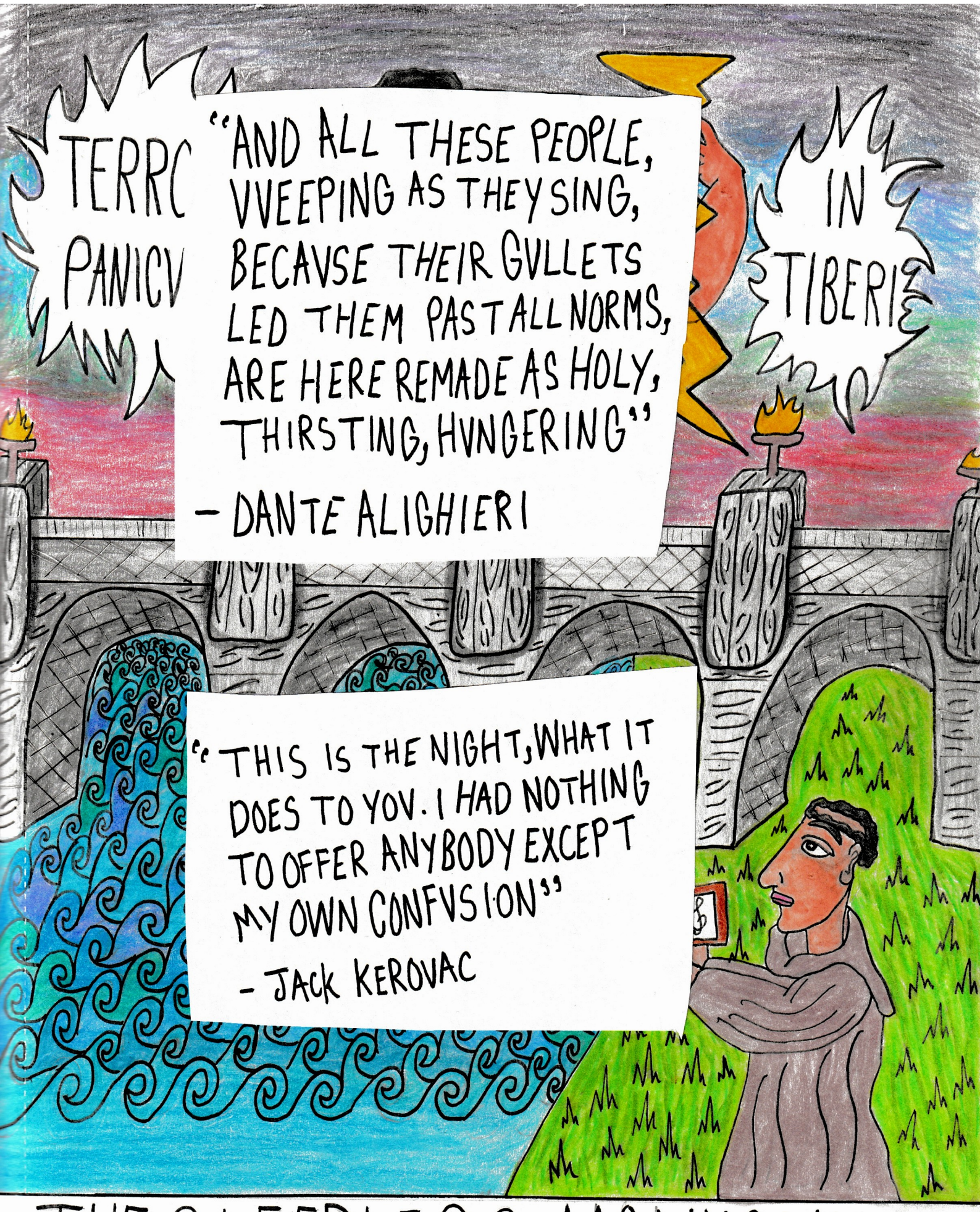
(CONTEXT: After the Fall of Troy, the lesser Ajax found Cassandra taking Sanctuary in a temple of Minerva. Ajax enraged and disrespected the goddess by forcibly dragging Cassandra out to join the other Prisioners)



If you think this Supposition of Gull-Minerva begging for fries is to absurd to seriously consider, THINKAGAIN! The gods regularly transform into mortal beings to test the virtue and goodness of humanity.

Recall how Jove and Mercury transformed into poor men and went into a Phrygian town to beg. The town was destroyed after all within it disrespected the gods, except an impoverished elderly couple, who were spared.

TAKE AWAY: Practice almsgiving FOR ALL BEINGS! Make thy heart good, lest thou be smitten!



THE SLEEPLESS MONKS VIII